



File Code: 1920

Date: January 14, 2003

Interested Parties:

The closure of the Crescent/Carter Lake area to winter motorized activities was an issue in many of the Chugach National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan appeals.

Upon review of these appeals, I am withdrawing that portion of my decision closing this area to winter motorized access. This closure became part of the Chugach Forest Plan decision late in the process, and I have asked the Forest Supervisor to take another look at this closure and possible alternatives to ensure fair consideration and disclosure with all potentially affected parties.

The overall Revised Forest Plan is sound, and in a broad context of forest planning I believe the closure was within the intent of the Revised Chugach Forest Plan. However, the Forest Supervisor will reconsider this portion of the decision at the local level, with involvement from all interested parties, to make sure that the site-specific impacts of any closures are fully disclosed and that reasonable alternatives are considered. I expect this collaborative effort to begin as soon as possible, with a local decision that can be implemented by the next winter season (2003/2004).

Until this site-specific analysis is completed, the Crescent/Carter Lake area will remain open to winter motorized activities, as it was under the 1984 Chugach Forest Plan. This includes the following polygons, as shown on the Winter Motorized Recreation Access Map dated May 2002, map #R10-MB-480g:

K155 (south of Seward and Sterling Highways)	K164 (south of Sterling Highway)
K165	K166
K168	K169
K170	K173
K176	K177
K178	K179
K198 (south of Seward Highway)	K201
K202	K203

The current Forest Closure map (map #R10-MB-480g-KP-I-05) displaying the Crescent Lake/Quartz Creek area will be revised. National Forest System lands south of Tern Lake, southwest of the Seward Highway, and south of the Sterling Highway will be open to winter motorized activities, as they were under the 1984 Chugach Forest Plan. National Forest System lands north of the Highways (Quartz Creek area) will remain closed to motorized use.

This is the only portion of my decision that I am withdrawing. For further information, contact Doug Stockdale, Public Affairs Officer, Chugach National Forest, at (907) 743-9508.

SINCERELY,

DENNIS E. BSCHOR
Regional Forester

